

SENATE RESOLUTION 646—EXPRESSING THE SENATE'S SUPPORT FOR FINLAND AND SWEDEN'S ACCESSION INTO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) AND THE EXPEDITED RATIFICATION OF ACCESSION PROTOCOLS

Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 646

Whereas Sweden and Finland are substantial contributors to the international community and play important roles in the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe, and other international organizations;

Whereas, during the Cold War and since its end, Sweden and Finland sought to maintain peace in their region through policies of military non-alignment and neutral relations between Russia and the West, while nonetheless remaining true to their values and condemning the Russian government's authoritarian acts;

Whereas the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on February 24, 2022, forced the transatlantic community to reconsider the geopolitical stability of their region;

Whereas NATO is the most successful political-military alliance in history and, guided by a set of common values, provides collective defense to nearly 1,000,000,000 people living in its member nations;

Whereas the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine marks the largest military conflict in Europe since World War II, representing a dramatic shift for European security and requiring NATO to change its policies to increase, modernize, and enhance its force posture and to create more strategic depth to adequately confront the new challenges, specifically those posed by Russia and China;

Whereas Sweden and Finland have provided incredible support to NATO-led operations, such as the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, KFOR in Kosovo, and peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Whereas both Finland and Sweden have been model members of NATO's Partnership Interoperability Initiative since its founding in 2014, and of NATO's Partnership for Peace since its founding in 1994;

Whereas NATO has a range of capabilities that can enhance the ability of Sweden and Finland to defend and deter conflict in their region;

Whereas Sweden and Finland have well-developed professional militaries and sophisticated defense industries that can provide NATO with new capabilities to bolster collective defense;

Whereas Sweden and Finland have proven their willingness and capability to contribute to cooperative international security efforts by donating military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and imposing coordinated sanctions on Russia;

Whereas each prospective NATO member is expected to have a functioning democratic political system based on a market economy, fair treatment of minority populations, a commitment to resolve conflicts peacefully, an ability and willingness to make contribution to NATO operations, and a commitment to democratic civil-military relations and institutions;

Whereas, alongside a number of our European allies, Finland and Sweden have recently announced the expansion and reform of their militaries, efforts that can be maximized if channeled toward collective security through the NATO framework;

Whereas the Arctic region, which holds increasing importance for United States and European security, has already seen encroachments from Russia and China, and Sweden and Finland are uniquely poised to address these regional challenges and help NATO confront them; and

Whereas Russia has threatened Sweden and Finland with "serious military and political consequences should it choose to join NATO": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes Finland and Sweden's decision to join NATO;

(2) acknowledges that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has dramatically changed the security situation in Europe, and that the reform and expansion of NATO is key to ensuring a safe and prosperous future for the United States and critical allies and partners;

(3) recognizes that Sweden and Finland have surpassed the qualifications expected of prospective members and that both countries have much to contribute and gain from membership in the NATO alliance;

(4) reaffirms its support for NATO's collective security commitment and for maximizing our allies' combined defense capabilities through NATO coordination and cooperation;

(5) calls on the President to move expeditiously to complete all documents and reports needed to support the Senate's approval of the accession protocols; and

(6) calls on all NATO members to move rapidly to complete their ratification processes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5042. Ms. HIRONO (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2490, to establish the Blackwell School National Historic Site in Marfa, Texas, and for other purposes..

SA 5043. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4008, to provide COVID relief for restaurants, gyms, minor league sports teams, border businesses, live venue service providers, exclave businesses, and providers of transportation services; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5044. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4008, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5042. Ms. HIRONO (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2490, to establish the Blackwell School National Historic Site in Marfa, Texas, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 4, strike lines 7 and 8 and insert the following:

(1) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Blackwell School National Historic Site Proposed Boundary", numbered 593/178387, and dated February 2022.

On page 5, strike lines 21 through 24.

On page 6, line 1, strike "(2)" and insert "(1)".

On page 6, line 4, strike "(3)" and insert "(2)".

SA 5043. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4008, to provide COVID relief for restaurants, gyms, minor league sports teams, border businesses, live venue service providers, exclave businesses, and providers of transportation services; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 502. OFFSET OF COSTS USING UNOBLIGATED FUNDS FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021.

Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, of the unobligated balances made available under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 135 Stat. 4), or an amendment made by such Act, there is rescinded, on a pro rata basis, the amount necessary to reduce the total amount of such unobligated balances by an amount equal to the total amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SA 5044. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4008, to provide COVID relief for restaurants, gyms, minor league sports teams, border businesses, live venue service providers, exclave businesses, and providers of transportation services; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5. OFFSET OF COSTS USING UNOBLIGATED FUNDS FROM THE CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND AND THE CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND.

Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, of the unobligated balances made available under section 602(a) or 603(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 802(a), 803(a)), there is rescinded, on a pro rata basis, the amount necessary to reduce the total amount of such unobligated balances by an amount equal to the total amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I have six requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet

during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 9 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns in my office be granted floor privileges until August 19, 2022: Sarah Ryan, Caleb Waters, Caroline Decker, Sean Keating, Brett Logsdon, Katie Rock, Chip Wyatt, Garrison Danzer, Addison Scherler, Spencer Woodall, Katie Elliott, and Caleb Webb.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ACCESS TO BABY FORMULA ACT OF 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7791, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7791) to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to establish waiver authority to address certain emergencies, disasters, and supply chain disruptions, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 7791) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the Senate has just passed legislation to help ease the terrible nightmare parents are facing trying to find baby formula for their kids.

It is rare that we have unanimity in the Senate on important measures, and I wish we had more, but this is one of these important issues, and I am glad we are acting with one voice.

It is the stuff of nightmares for parents to race to the grocery store or the

drugstore only to find the shelves empty of baby formula or, even worse, maybe causing more anguish because there is formula on the shelf, but they can't buy it because WIC didn't allow them to. This shortage of baby formula is causing unimaginable stress, unimaginable anguish for parents, and immense harm on America's young kids.

There is already such a strain on parents of newborn children, especially in the times of COVID. The last thing parents and caregivers need is for it to be even harder to feed their children. The step we are taking today is going to add flexibility and relief to WIC beneficiaries, and almost half of all baby formula consumed in the United States is by WIC beneficiaries. Now millions of parents will have an easier time finding the baby formula they need.

I want to thank Senator STABENOW. She has been amazing in shepherding this through. She got it through the House. She came up with the idea. And now we are here to pass it in the Senate and send to the President's desk. She had a great partner in Senator BOOZMAN who stepped up to the plate as well. I thank them for championing this legislation.

As I mentioned, it already passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support, and I am glad it is passing the Senate.

Yesterday, President Biden invoked the DPA, Defense Production Act, to respond to the shortage of baby formula that is hurting parents and caretakers of newborns across the country. The President and Democrats in Congress are taking this issue seriously, and invoking the DPA was exactly the right response.

To the parents and caregivers of America, we hear you. We know this is an unacceptable crisis. The Senate is taking action. President Biden has taken action to increase imports of safe baby formula and to increase production of formula in our country. The House has taken action, and now the Senate is. We must keep going because there is more to do.

I yield to Senator STABENOW who, as I mentioned, did an amazingly great job on this issue.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I want to thank our leader who has been right there every moment giving us the opportunity to be able to move this through quickly.

I am very pleased to say the Access to Baby Formula Act, after Senator SCHUMER's actions, will be going to the President for his signature. This is really important as part of what we need to do to deal with an immediate crisis. The reality is that right this minute, moms and dads are trying to figure out what they are going to be able to do to give safe baby formula to their children. Is it on the shelf? Where will they have to go to get it? How many days, hours are we going to have to wait to do this? It is an incredible—incredible—emergency.

What I so appreciate is that we came together—House, Senate, Democrats and Republicans—and acted, frankly, I think faster than I anticipated from writing the bill in the beginning of the week to Thursday having it pass the House and now the Senate to go to the President.

I don't think we should be giving ourselves too many kudos here because I wish this hadn't happened in the very beginning. We shouldn't have seen what happened at the Abbott plant. In my mind, the FDA should have moved more quickly to respond to it. But when we became aware of all of this, we came together very quickly to do what we could.

The reality is that half of the baby formula in this country goes to moms and babies who are on a very important program that is called the Women, Infants, and Children's Program. We know that we have to do everything humanly possible to take away any barrier for them to be able to get this important food for children—to get baby formula for children—and that is what we have done to make sure that the USDA can act quickly.

I want to thank Secretary Vilsack, who in fact has acted quickly and who has worked with us on this legislation.

We also want to make sure that every manufacturer of baby formula going forward is required to participate in WIC to have a comprehensive plan of what to do in an emergency, what to do if their supply chain breaks down or something else that stops our moms and babies from getting what is essential daily nutrients for them to be healthy. This is an important program that has worked for a long, long time.

I am so pleased to have my friend and ranking member Senator BOOZMAN working with me. We came together very quickly. I want to thank our staffs for doing that as well.

This is not the only thing that needs to happen, but it is really important that we move forward and make it clear that if you are on WIC and you go to the grocery store and the formula that you are supposed to buy by grant is not available, but there is something else available, you can buy it. You can get it. We are not going to put any barriers up for your getting safe baby formula. This is an important piece.

I want to thank President Biden for acting as well, reaching out to our partners in the European Union to be able to import safe baby formula as fast as possible. There are other producers, manufacturers in the country increasing their production right now.

But the most important thing is that we let families know that we are going to do everything possible to make sure that their babies get what they need as soon as possible and that we understand—I certainly understand as a mom; I understand as a grandma—that this is a horror for families with babies.

And I am very appreciative that the U.S. Senate came together as quickly